

Appendix E

PARKS, TRAILS, AND NATURAL AREAS FUNDING CRITERIA

The Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act on 1998, Section 4 (e)(3)(A)(iv), as amended, allows for money from the Special Account to be expended for:

“ . . . development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark and Lincoln Counties, Nevada, pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a unit of local government. . . ”

The Park, Trail, and Natural Area (PTNA) category is inherently intended to fund outdoor projects aimed at accomplishing the strategic goals below. The PTNA category is not intended to fund capital improvement-type projects where the primary goal of the nomination is construction, renovation, or expansion of buildings (e.g., museums, schools, office or administrative buildings, theaters, auditoriums, etc.). However, funding may be provided for PTNA projects which, due to the nature of the project, require incidental building construction (e.g., restrooms, maintenance sheds, group picnic shelters, shade structures, small visitor greeting areas, etc.). In addition, funding may be provided for PTNA projects which include, or where the primary purpose is, more significant building construction, such as a visitor center with nature displays tied to the park's theme, when the proposed building is deemed an integral part of a larger PTNA project and critical to accomplishing the goals of that larger project.

Eligibility

Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas projects may be nominated by a unit of local government (Clark County, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North Las Vegas, the City of Henderson, or Lincoln County) as well as by a regional government entity (Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Regional Flood Control District or the Clark County Sanitation District).

Strategic Goal for Contributing to the Development of Parks, Trails and Natural Areas

Partner with local government in Clark and Lincoln Counties to develop more and better parks, trails and natural areas to:

- Provide new or improved existing park, trail, or natural areas to meet the demands and changing demographics of residents and visitors.
- Protect or improve the integrity of environmental, cultural, historical, scientific, and open space resources.
- Connect parks, trails and natural areas to form a more unified system.
- Ensure that the cost and value of investment is considered, well stated and reasonable.

Minimum Criteria

- The project is located in Clark County or Lincoln County; and
- A Cooperative Agreement between a Federal land management agency and a unit of local government or regional governmental entity is in place. (The SNPLMA Assistance

Agreements with eligible local and regional governmental entities satisfy this requirement. However specific projects may require a separate cooperative agreement with one or more of the Federal land management agencies to address management and/or operation of the finished project or to meet some other legal requirement.)

Ranking Criteria

Four criteria will be used by the subgroup to evaluate, score, and rank nominations in this category. The total points available for each criteria is shown to the right of the criteria. The factors used to score the criteria are listed below it with the points available for each factor. The factor scores are cumulative to make up the total points available for each criteria. If a project has the factor, the project will receive the full points available for that factor.

1. Demand. Provides a new or improves an existing park, trail or natural area to meet the demands and changing demographics of residents and visitors.	Points = 18
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Factors:

A. The project meets an unfilled demand or deficiency for parks, trails, or natural areas.	6	
B. Describes how the facility meets the need(s) of the target demographic.	6	
C. The project is unique and/or significant to the region it is or will be established in.	3	
D. Addresses, remedies or improves a safety concern(s).	3	

2. Resource Protection. Protects or improves the integrity of environmental, cultural, historical, scientific and open space resources.	Points = 18
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Factors:

A. Significance of environmental, cultural, historical, scientific, or open space resources protected.	6	
B. Nature of any threat to the resource, urgency for action, and/or desired outcomes.	6	
C. The project seeks to minimize impact to environmental, cultural, historical, scientific, and/or open space resources.	3	
D. Provides educational value related to resource protection.	3	

3. Connectivity. Will connect parks trails and natural areas to form a more unified system.	Points = 12
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Factors:

A. Is a phase or related component to a previously approved SNPLMA project.	3	
B. Provides connectivity to a regional/local park, trail, or natural area, and/or federal lands.	3	
C. The park, trail, or natural area is part of an approved regional or local plan. (If no formal regional/local approved plan describes the planning process.)	3	
D. If applicable, significance of gap filled in the trail system.	3	

4. Cost and Value of Investment: Evaluates describes and considers the costs and benefits of the project	Points = 12
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Factors:

A. The projected budget, associated costs and phasing considerations of the proposal are stated and justified.	3	
B. Evaluation of Public demand/use vs. investment required. (i.e. service area/radius, communities benefited)	3	
C. Design or approach of project minimizes future maintenance and/or replacement costs to the extent possible for the type of project.	3	
D. Partnerships and value of contribution to the project. (i.e. financial, volunteerism)	3	

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 60
